

# Iron Horse Park asbestos is capped; EPA studies further remedial action

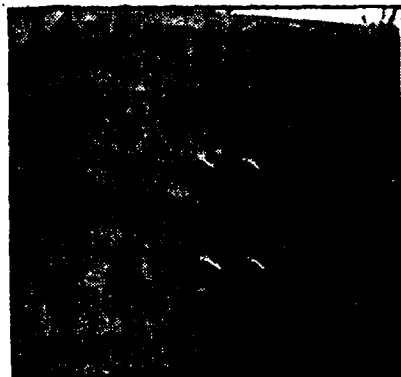
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This year, the town saw successful completion of the first remedial action in Ironhorse Park since the area was added to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund list in August of 1983.

Emergency recapping operations of more than 15 acres of eroding asbestos landfills began in August of this year and were completed by the projected deadline of Nov. 1. The landfills, which totalled four, were abandoned in the park by the Johns-Manville Corp.

In addition, workers discovered a dozen drums; three, containing asbestos, were buried in place while the other nine were removed to a licensed disposal facility. They contained acid, hazardous waste sludge and an oxidizer.

Only one 11-acre "whopper of a landfill," in the words of EPA On-Site Coordinator Robert Ankstus, had originally been anticipated by workers who studied the area in August. The additional three landfills, totalling about four acres, along with the



drums, boosted the cost of clean-up from a projected \$960,000 to \$1.3 million.

Next, EPA will conduct a \$770,000 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RIFS) of the 13,000 acre park to determine what clean-up action remains to be taken. A draft scope of work, or study, to determine area "hot spots" is nearing completion, according to EPA Environmental Engineer Richard Leighton.

Superfund Action Committee (SAC) members and other concerned residents have expressed concern in numerous public

forums with representatives of the federal agency that comprehensive air monitoring needs to be performed in the park and surrounding neighborhoods, in addition to the RIFS.

The request has been accompanied by others, such as the establishment of clinical intervention opportunities for those people near the site concerned about health effects from the site and from surrounding industries, and relocation of residents living in areas found to be dangerous.

Response to the requests has so far been negative, with EPA Regional Administrator Michael Deland saying problems attributable to active industries in the Superfund site area lie within the purview of state environmental and health agencies, and that measures requested by residents to test the air for contaminants is expensive and possibly, inappropriate.

Residents, on the other hand, say they have tried repeatedly to get state agencies to solve prob

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## Asbestos

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lems in the area. One as yet unresolved problem is the odor emitted from the active Dynamit-Nobel Corp., near the park, which residents say still plagues neighborhoods at night. They say it is impossible to get the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering to the area in time to verify complaints and take further action.



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